

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/829,435

Examiner

Elliot L Frank

Applicant(s)

FAIRLIE ET AL.

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's initial submission filed 22 April 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 25-68.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/387,828.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. The prior art of record, taken singly or in any reasonable combination, fails to teach or daily suggest the claimed invention.

b. Claim 25 is the only independent claim pending in this application after the applicant's pre-amendment. Claim 25 requires the following:

25. (New) A hydrogen energy system for one or more buildings, said system comprising:

(a) a hydrogen generator;

(b) at least one zone controller for receiving and processing demands from at least one hydrogen user associated with at least one zone of the one or more buildings;

(c) a unit controller for receiving and processing hydrogen demand data received from said at least one zone controller.

c. Claim 25 is a broader version of claim 22 indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the first action of the parent application 09/387,828 (now USPN 6,745,105 B1).

d. The most relevant prior art of record is Scragg et al. (USPN 4,084,038). Scragg et al. is a hydrogen production and storage system that mentions electric power generation as a hydrogen user in the background of the disclosure. The reference does not anticipate or make obvious the hydrogen

demand control system for one or more buildings required in claim 25.

Further search for a (zone) controller which processes demands from at least one hydrogen user associated with at least one zone or building and a (unit) controller for processing hydrogen demand data received from the at least one (zone) controller did not result in any additional relevant references.

e. Therefore, the limitations of claim 25, in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention, were not disclosed nor fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

USPN 4,084,038 – Scragg et al. – Power generation via hydrogen

USPN 4,436,793 – Adlhart – Hydrogen generation

USPN 4,776,171 – Perry, Jr. et al. – Renewable energy system

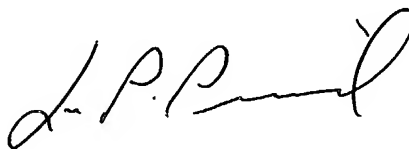
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elliot L Frank whose telephone number is (571) 272-3739. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:00 (flex).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P Picard can be reached on (571) 373-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ELF
14 September 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Picard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100